

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A hydrogen storage material comprising metal nanoparticles that are ~~[[a]]~~ a mixture of nanometer scale platelets and nanometer scale equiaxial particles, ~~and/or b)~~ wherein said nanometer scale equiaxial particles comprise a metal core covered by a metal shell or metal coating, wherein the metal core is Mg or an alloy containing Mg, and wherein said platelets comprise nanometer scale Pd ~~particles~~ platelets that have a thickness of about 1 nm to about 200 nm and a face dimension of about 10 nm to about 1000 nm, an aspect ratio (face diameter divided by thickness) of the nanometer scale platelets ranges from about 10 nm to about 100 nm.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Original) The hydrogen storage material of claim 1, wherein the nanoparticles form a metal core covered by a metal shell or metal coating that provides oxidation resistance to the metal core, which is less noble than the coating.

Claim 4. (Original) The hydrogen storage material of claim 1, wherein the nanoparticles form a metal core covered by a metal shell or metal coating that provides catalysis for dehydrogenation.

Claim 5. (Original) The hydrogen storage material of claim 1, wherein the nanoparticles form a metal core covered by a) a first metal coating that provides oxidation resistance to the core metal, which is less noble than the coating, and b) a second metal coating that provides catalysis for dehydrogenation.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Original) The hydrogen storage material of claim 3, wherein said shell or coating is selected from Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Pd, Pt, Au, or an alloy containing one or more of these metals.

Claim 8-10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Original) The hydrogen storage material of claim 1, wherein the nanoparticles form a metal core covered by a first coating that provides oxidation resistance to the core metal, which is less noble than the coating, and/or a second coating that provides catalysis for dehydrogenation

Claim 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Original) The hydrogen storage material of claim 11, wherein said first and/or second coating is selected from Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Pd, Pt, Au, or an alloy containing one or more of these metals.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing the hydrogen storage material, comprising:

- a) mixing octylamine and an aqueous solution containing palladium nitrate;
- b) adding hydrazine hydrate as a reducing agent thus forming a mixture of metal nanoparticles comprising platelets and equiaxial particles;
- c) separating and recovering the platelets and equiaxial particles.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein in step a), about 1 part molar octylamine is also mixed with the octylamine, which is present in about 25 parts molar.

Claims 16-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a hydrogen storage material, comprising the steps of:

mixing $C_{10}H_8$, $MgCl_2$, Li and THF with rapid stirring to form Mg;

removing the THF and dissolved by-products to recover Mg nanoparticles;

mixing the Mg nanoparticles with $C_{10}H_8$, Li and THF and with and with palladium chloride, palladium nitrite or cobalt chloride, to coat the Mg nanoparticles with palladium, cobalt and/or an alloy containing palladium or cobalt to form at least one shell or coating over the Mg nanoparticles.

Claim 23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein the palladium, cobalt or an alloy containing palladium or cobalt, is palladium and the shell or coating is a first shell or coating of $MgPd$, over which is a second shell or coating of Pd.